

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system for neutralizing airborne pathogens, comprising:
 - 2 A. a flow-through reaction chamber having:
 - 3 1. a chamber air inlet at a first end of the reaction chamber to admit air
 - 4 contaminated with pathogens, and
 - 5 2. a chamber air outlet at a second end of the reaction chamber to release
 - 6 decontaminated air, and defining between the air inlet and air outlet a
 - 7 passageway,
 - 8 B. a supply of aqueous hydrogen peroxide connected to a conduit for introducing
 - 9 aqueous hydrogen peroxide into the reaction chamber, and
 - 10 C. an ultraviolet light source for introducing UV light into the reaction chamber.
- 1 2. The system as in claim 1, wherein the supply of aqueous hydrogen peroxide is a
- 2 hydrogen peroxide generator connected to a water supply and a source of electricity.
- 1 3. The system as in claim 1, wherein the supply of aqueous hydrogen peroxide is a
- 2 reservoir of aqueous hydrogen peroxide.
- 1 4. The system as in claim 1, wherein the conduit is a nozzle disposed inside the reaction
- 2 chamber.
- 1 5. The system as in claim 1, wherein the reaction chamber further comprises a porous
- 2 matrix.
- 1 6. The system as in claim 5, wherein the porous matrix is metal foam.
- 1 7. The system as in claim 6, wherein the metal is selected from the group comprising
- 2 aluminum, copper, silver, and oxides thereof.
- 1 8. The system as in claim 6, wherein the metal foam is aluminum foam.

- 1 9. The system as in claim 5, wherein the porous matrix is removable.
- 1 10. The system as in claim 1, further comprising a microwave generator to introduce
2 microwaves into the reaction chamber.
- 1 11. The system as in claim 1, further comprising an ultrasonic wave generator to
2 introduce ultrasonic waves into the reaction chamber.
- 1 12. The system as in claim 1, further comprising an ozone supply for introducing ozone
2 into the reaction chamber.
- 1 13. The system as in claim 12, wherein the ozone supply is an ozone generator.
- 1 14. The system as in claim 12, wherein the ozone supply is a reservoir that contains
2 ozone.
- 1 15. The system of claim 12, further comprising a mixing chamber for mixing ozone and
2 aqueous hydrogen peroxide.
- 1 16. The system of claim 1, wherein the reaction chamber further comprises a solid
2 support.
- 1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the solid support comprises ozone removal catalysts.
- 1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the solid support comprises compounds that adsorb
2 or neutralize pathogens.
- 1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the solid support comprises compounds that adsorb
2 or neutralize chemical toxins.
- 1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the solid support comprises ozone removal catalysts.

- 1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the ozone removal catalyst is a member selected
2 from the group comprising all-aluminum catalysts, a carbon supported metal oxide
3 catalyst, CuCl_2 -coated carbon fibers, carbon-iron aerosol particles, alumina, platinum,
4 palladium, and nickel.
- 1 22. The system of claim 13, wherein the ozone generator is a corona discharge generator.
- 1 23. The system as in claim 1, configured for operation in a continuous mode.
- 1 24. The system as in claim 1, configured to be activated upon demand.
- 1 25. The system of claim 1, further comprising a fan to move air through the passageway.
- 1 26. The system of claim 1, wherein an amount of hydrogen peroxide in the reaction
2 chamber is controlled by sensors.
- 1 27. The system as in claim 1, wherein the ultraviolet light source emits high intensity UV
2 light.
- 1 28. The system as in claim 27, wherein the ultraviolet light source emits UV light having
2 a wavelength in a range from about 250 nanometers to about 300 nanometers.
- 1 29. The system of claim 1, wherein a concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the aqueous
2 hydrogen peroxide supply is from about 1 % to about 50%.
- 1 30. The system as in claim 1, wherein a concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the
2 aqueous hydrogen peroxide supply is from about 1 % to about 25%.
- 1 31. A method of neutralizing airborne pathogens comprising:
2 1. introducing air contaminated with pathogens into a flow-through reaction
3 chamber;

2. introducing aqueous hydrogen peroxide into the flow-through reaction chamber to form a mixture of contaminated air and aqueous hydrogen peroxide inside the reaction chamber;
3. irradiating the mixture with ultraviolet light thereby neutralizing the airborne pathogens to create decontaminated air; and
4. releasing the decontaminated air from the reaction chamber.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the additional step before step 3 of introducing ozone into the reaction chamber forming a mixture of contaminated air, aqueous hydrogen peroxide and ozone.

33. The method of claim 31, step 2 further comprising mixing the aqueous hydrogen peroxide with ozone before introducing the aqueous hydrogen peroxide to form a mixture of contaminated air, aqueous hydrogen peroxide and ozone.

34. The method of claim 31, step 2 further comprising introducing the aqueous hydrogen peroxide into the reaction chamber through a nozzle disposed in the reaction chamber, to form at least one of a spray, mist or vapor.

35. The method as in claim 31, step 2 further comprising maintaining a concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the flow through reaction chamber at a level in a range from about 1% to about 50%.

36. The system as in claim 31, step 2 further comprising maintaining a concentration of hydrogen peroxide in the flow-through reaction chamber at a level in a range from about 1% to about 25%.

37. The method as in claim 32, step 2 further comprising maintaining a concentration of ozone in the reaction chamber at a level in a range from about 0.01 ppm to about 100 ppm.

- 1 38. A method of neutralizing airborne chemical toxins comprising:
2 1. introducing air contaminated with chemical toxins into a flow-through
3 reaction chamber;
4 2. introducing aqueous hydrogen peroxide into the flow-through reaction
5 chamber to form a mixture of contaminated air and aqueous hydrogen
6 peroxide inside the reaction chamber;
7 3. irradiating the mixture with ultraviolet light thereby neutralizing the airborne
8 chemical toxins to create decontaminated air; and
9 4. releasing the decontaminated air from the reaction chamber.
- 1 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising the additional step before step 3 of
2 introducing ozone into the reaction chamber to form a mixture of contaminated air,
3 aqueous hydrogen peroxide and ozone.
- 1 40. The method of claim 38, step 2 further comprising mixing the aqueous hydrogen
2 peroxide with ozone before introducing the aqueous hydrogen peroxide to form a
3 mixture of contaminated air, aqueous hydrogen peroxide and ozone.
- 1 41. The method of claim 38, step 2 further comprising introducing the aqueous hydrogen
2 peroxide into the reaction chamber through a nozzle to form at least one of a spray,
3 mist or vapor.
- 1 42. The method as in claim 38, step 2 further comprising maintaining a concentration of
2 hydrogen peroxide in the flow through reaction chamber at a level in a range from
3 about 1% to about 50%.
- 1 43. The system as in claim 38, step 2 further comprising maintaining a concentration of
2 hydrogen peroxide in the flow-through reaction chamber at a level in a range from
3 about 1% to about 25%.

- 1 44. The method as in claim 32 or claim 33, step 2 further comprising maintaining a
2 concentration of ozone in the reaction chamber at a level in a range from about 0.01
3 ppm to about 1000 ppm.
- 1 45. The method as in claim 32 or claim 33, step 2 further comprising maintaining a
2 concentration of ozone in the reaction chamber at a level in a range from about 0.01
3 ppm to about 1000 ppm.
- 1 46. A system for neutralizing airborne pathogens and chemical toxins, comprising:
2 A. a flow-through reaction chamber having:
3 1. a chamber air inlet at a first end of the reaction chamber to admit air
4 contaminated with pathogens, and
5 3. a chamber air outlet at a second end of the reaction chamber to release
6 decontaminated air, and defining between the air inlet and air outlet a
7 passageway,
8 B. a supply of aqueous hydrogen peroxide connected to a conduit for introducing
9 aqueous hydrogen peroxide into the reaction chamber, and
10 C. a means for converting aqueous hydrogen peroxide to hydroxyl radicals.
- 1 47. The system as in claim 46, wherein the means for converting aqueous hydrogen
2 peroxide into hydroxyl radicals is heat.
- 1 48. The system as in claim 46, wherein the means for converting aqueous hydrogen
2 peroxide into hydroxyl radicals is electricity.